

# BACKGROUND FOR THE COMPANY REPORT

## History

This is a new way of teaching this unit starting this year. Traditionally, AP/GP and lines of best fit were taught by modeling garbage entering landfills or the growth of populations such as bacteria. The unit had some growing pains this year, but we will continue to improve it for next year. I have included both the new unit planner for this year (as the school is going to ManageBAC next year, this is in a different format) and the old unit plan from last year (which has more detail on the mathematical content of the unit).

## The Unit

Students were introduced to the unit with a trip to the library where they each chose an annual report of a company they wanted to research. The students were then taught how to read annual reports--specifically how to calculate book value per share from equity (assets minus liabilities divided by shares outstanding). We then looked at different ways that book value could grow. Other examples of growth were examined, and examples were chosen with a primary focus on money. Students were taught how to recognize arithmetic and geometric sequences--first with mathematically perfect patterns, and then increasingly with the uncertainty of the real world. Students plotted graphs and were shown how to find a line of best fit.

## Technology

Numbers was the primary spreadsheet program used, and iBooks was used for writing the report as students are starting their ePortfolios in iBooks this year. Students were also taught how to use their graphing calculators to plot points and find lines of best fit.

## Dates

Students had from October 29th through January 15th to complete the task.

## Standardization

Bonnie Luk and Daniel Slosberg standardized the assessments once complete.